

Radio Stamps

Prepared by

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Program 35 - October 1993

Hello again, and welcome to the ninth edition of *Radio Stamps* in 1993. A warm welcome, as always, if you're listening to the program for the first time. This is program number 35, and its time for another contest

Last month, I mentioned that your collection of radio stamps need not be limited to just postage stamps. There's a wealth of other philatelic material that can enhance and enrich your collection on the topic of radio. This includes meter stamps, postal cancellations, and postcards. It can also include postal stationery, cinderellas and first day covers. Collecting radio station meter stamps was the subject of one of my earlier programs. On programs still to come, I'll feature what you can collect about radio with a variety of postal cancellations, postcards, postal stationery and what is known as cinderellas.

The focus last month was on first day covers. In my *Radio Stamps* column, in the Journal of the North American Shortwave Association, I sometimes include a first day cover as an illustration. I collect official first day covers issued by postal authorities, as well as first day covers prepared by other collectors. A cover, you'll remember from last month, is an envelope, with or without postage stamps, that has passed through the mail, and has postal markings of some sort on it. Before the introduction of envelopes in 1840, people folded letters and wrote the address on the outside. Many people covered their letters with an extra sheet of paper on the outside for the address. This sheet, and later envelopes, was called a cover. Stamped envelopes, used air letter sheets and other items of postal stationery are also referred to as covers.

A first day cover is an envelope specially prepared or printed for the first-day-of-issue of a postage stamp. Most official first day covers, offered for sale by postal authorities around the world, include a special printed design on the envelope. This illustration, called a cachet, is designed to compliment the postage stamp, and its accompanying cancellation on the first-day-of-issue of the stamp.

Last month I featured the most recent first day cover in my collection for Radio Oranje from the Netherlands. On May 5th this year, the Dutch Post Office issued two 80 cent stamps as part of a general series on the second world war. The stamps commemorate Radio Oranje, which was a programme compiled and presented by the Dutch government in exile, and broadcast over BBC transmitters. The two commemorative stamps are unusual as they're printed side by side on one sheet. One stamp, in orange, shows the lead singer of a cabaret group that sang resistance songs over Radio Oranje. The other stamp, in mauve, shows a young man listening to a Radio Oranje broadcast. The round cachet, also in mauve, on the left side of the white envelope, shows a young man with headphones listening illegally to a broadcast using a home-made radio hidden under the floor of the house.

The text on each stamp, in Dutch, is taken from the opening announcement of Radio Oranje which gave the wavelengths and greeted Dutch listeners around the world. Along the bottom of the cover a special Radio Oranje banner, in large blue letters, has been added from the original rubber stamp used at Radio Oranje in London on official correspondence. This hand stamp is now part of a collection at Radio Netherlands.

This first day cover for Radio Oranje would certainly make a great addition to your collection. Whether you collect radio stations on stamps, or whether you developed an interest from my recent program about radio at war on stamps, this cover is a must. Today, thanks to Jonathan Marks of Media Network, at Radio Netherlands, I have two of these unique first day covers to give away. To enter the contest, just send me a picture postcard from your community with your name and address, and the words Radio Oranje, that's spelled O-r-a-n-j-e. Two winners will be drawn on December 1st from all the postcard entries I've received. The contest winners will be announced on the January 1994 *Radio Stamps* program.

If it's possible, I hope you can send me a picture postcard from your part of the world that has a radio tower or station on it somewhere. Don't worry, this isn't a requirement for the draw. If your postcard has a radio tower or station on it, I'd like to use it on an upcoming program. Many picture postcards from cities around the world show downtown areas that have radio towers on top of major buildings, or on hills in the background, including those of AM or FM radio stations. Some radio stations have postcards of their facilities. One of the postcards I have in front of me, for example, from my visit last year to Montreal, is a beautiful sunset view of the city. It also shows radio towers in the background, on top of Mount Royal. One of the towers, I believe, is for the local CBC station. The other postcard I have today, as an example, comes from Swiss Radio International. It shows three towers with a curtain array of antennas. I'll be glad to receive whatever postcard you send for the contest, with or without a radio tower or a radio station.

I sure hope you'll be entering the draw to win one of these special first day covers for Radio Oranje. It's certainly a unique collector's item, and one of the finest first day covers on the topic of radio that I've ever seen. I hope too that you'll be listening to the *Radio Stamps* program, right here on HCJB, for the two contest winners. In the meantime, I'll have other tips for you all about the fun of collecting stamps on the topic of radio. Your comments and suggestions for the *Radio Stamps* program, heard here on the first Saturday of the month, are always welcome.

That's all for today. I hope too that you'll write with news of radio stamps from your part of the world. I look forward to hearing from you. Here's my address: Neil Carleton, that's spelled N-e-i-l C-a-r-l-e-t-o-n, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, spelled A-l-m-o-n-t-e, Ontario, spelled O-n-t-a-r-i-o. The postal code here in Canada is K0A 1A0. The address again is Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0, Canada.

Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.